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Secretion of the Gila Monster (*Heloderma suspectum*)," by J. Van Denburgh and O. B. Wight; "A Study of the Effects of Complete Removal of the Mammary Glands in Relationship to Lactose Formation," by B. Moore and W. H. Parker; and "Brief Contributions to Physiological Chemistry," communicated by L. B. Mendel.

BOTANY.

Briefer Courses in Botany.—In the making of text-books two more or less conflicting tendencies come to the surface—that to reasonable completeness and symmetry of treatment, and that to due brevity. Nearly every general text-book of the past decade or more, if it has met with favor, has appeared shortly in an abridged form. The latest of these abbreviated books are Atkinson's *Lessons*,¹ Barnes's *Outlines*,² and Coulter's *Plant Studies*;³ and each represents virtually a one-term text-book based on the earlier full-year books by the same authors. In the main, the characteristics of the latter pertain to them in their shorter form. Each author approaches his subject from his own point of view, and what has been said in earlier numbers of the *Naturalist* about the fuller books need not be repeated here for the abbreviated editions. A pamphlet of suggestions to teachers, by Dr. Caldwell, accompanies Part II of the fuller edition of Coulter, — *Plant Structures*, — and, while it is not above criticism, is likely to assist even the trained teacher in many small ways. T.

Nicholson's Dictionary of Gardening.⁴—Simultaneously with the appearance of Professor Bailey's *Cyclopedia of American Horticulture*, of which two volumes have already been noticed in the *Naturalist*, comes a supplement to its great predecessor, Nicholson's *Dictionary*, which a competent authority characterized in its day as the best reference book within reach of the gardener and fruit-grower, and a model

¹ Atkinson, G. F. *Lessons in Botany*. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1900.

² Barnes, C. R. *Outlines of Plant Life, with Special Reference to Form and Function*. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1900.

³ Coulter, J. M. *Plant Studies*. An Elementary Botany. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1900.

⁴ Nicholson, G. The "1900" Supplement to the *Dictionary of Gardening*, a practical and scientific encyclopædia of horticulture for gardeners and botanists. Hyde Park, Mass., Geo. T. King, 1900. A to F. 4to, pp. viii + 376, ff., 385, with several colored plates. Price \$5.00.